

GEN. SCHOFIELD'S "JOY GUN."

An interesting episode of the war in North Carolina.

A letter from General Cox's headquarters near Kingston, March 9th, to the Cincinnati Commercial, makes the following interesting note of Gen. Schofield's "joy gun."

Soon after our forces occupied Wilmington, a stalwart, intelligent negro called on General Schofield's headquarters and asked to see the General. He was shown in to the room, when his mission was made known. He had gathered together hundreds of stout blacks and marched them from the interior, by night, through the thickets, swamps and forests. Not knowing whether our forces were yet in Wilmington, he left his men behind and scout about the city, promising them that if the "Union men" were in Wilmington, he would ask the General to fire a joy gun, when they were all to come in and join him.

"And now General," the negro said, "I find you good Union folks here, and it makes my heart dance for joy, and won't you have that big gun fired. Oh, Master, it will make my mother cry when she hears that joy gun, and all the men will be glad, and they will come in here and join your army." General Schofield promised him that his "joy gun" should be fired, and the man went out, waiting to hear its echo through the pine forests and hills. The General ordered one of the heaviest pieces of artillery in the fort to be fired.

That "joy gun" was fired; its echo is still ringing through these forests, and over these sandy plains. It was a joyful sound to those hunted fugitives, secreted in the swamps about the city. It called them from their hiding places, and in hundreds they came, with strong arms, and what is better still, with joyful hearts—heads willing and anxious to do what little they could for the power that had broken off their chains, and freed them from the shackles of their task master. They are enrolling their names to-day, on the recruiting lists of this great army of freedom, and clad in blue and with Yankee muskets, they will be foremost in the grand army, now marshaling for the death struggle.

That gun, that was a joyful messenger to them, was heard by hundreds of others, fleeing from the advancing armies of the Union. It did not call them in, however. It quickened their speed and tried them farther away from the power they dared not meet. Their arms were full as strong and able to do duty for the old flag, but their hearts were bitter in their hatred of that flag. In this they differed. One was black, the other was white. One was loyal, the other disloyal. The joy gun rallied one class about the flag, while it drove the other from it. Other joy guns are being fired. The hills and valleys of North Carolina are echoing to the sound of thousands of them. They are joy guns to one class, while they ring with despair for another.

THE FLOOD AT PITTSBURG.

The Allegheny higher than was ever before known—Immense Loss, Exciting Scenes, Great Peril, &c.

[From the Pittsburgh Commercial, 13th.] We are now in the midst of what promises to be the greatest and most disastrous freshet that has ever occurred in the Allegheny Valley since the memorable flood of 1852. The people residing in the immediate vicinity of the city have been prepared for it, and their precautions will, therefore, save them the usual disasters resulting from a sudden rising of waters.

During the day, yesterday, the most painful rumors were afloat in the city relative to disasters by the flood in Oil City, Franklin, and other towns along the river. Houses with their residents in them were reported to be carried off from Oil City, and part of the town of Franklin swept away by the angry water. The Allegheny river, at this city, commenced rising rapidly on Thursday morning, and continued to swell during the night and yesterday at the rate of about six inches per hour. At dusk last evening the water had risen to twenty-seven feet, and the lower portions of Allegheny were completely submerged. A large number of families were compelled to vacate their dwellings, while many others removed their effects to the upper stories, and held communication to the main land by means of skiffs and small rafts. The excitement was intense, and the altitudes and footwalks of the St. Clair street suspension bridge were crowded with people anxiously gazing upon the rising waters.

An immense amount of property has been destroyed, which is estimated by millions of dollars. The river was literally covered with oil barrels and lumber during the day and evening. Three frame dwelling houses floated down during the afternoon, one of them having a stove pipe protruding through the roof, from which the smoke was issuing. One of the houses was drawn by the current to the Allegheny side of the river, and moved in safety near the island. A span of a bridge, about one hundred feet in length, and with a lumber which had apparently been piled in yards and carried from their foundations, remaining intact, rafts, floats, derricks, saw logs, and everything that could possibly float away. The piers of the upper bridges were piled with rafts and heavy timber, much of which will be saved when the river recedes. A number of men, in skiffs, were busily engaged during the day in saving oil barrels and lumber, and although the current was fearfully swift, their dangerous labors were rewarded with considerable success. Two flats, laden with coal, passed the piers of the bridges in safety, but were followed by the men, overhauled at Manchester, and brought to the shore. The persistent efforts of these skillful boatmen to recover the lost property attracted great attention from persons on the shore, who stimulated them to greater exertion by frequent demonstrations of approval.

The loss immediately around the city is confined principally to oil barrels, a large number of which were floated off. Workmen were engaged until a late hour last night in removing barrels from the wharf, and it required the utmost exertion, and many reinforcements, to save them, owing to the rapid rise of the river. It is impossible to estimate the damage which has been sustained, but it will be very heavy.

No paper currency below five cents is to be allowed in circulation hereafter, and the three cent "fractionals" are to be withdrawn. By the recent law authorizing the coinage of three cent nickel and copper pieces, these coins are made a legal tender for sixty cents, and the one and two cent coins are legal tenders to the amount of four cents.

LAND SALES.—A report from the St. Croix Land Office, shows that during the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 1864, the amount of land entered at that time was 17,205 acres. Of this amount, 4,654 acres was railroad land, for which \$2.50 per acre was paid.—Hudson Times.

AN ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

His Views of Slavery and Negro Soldiers in the Rebel Army—The Enemy at the End of His Resources.

WASHINGTON, March 17. A rebel flag, captured at Fort Anderson by the 14th Indiana volunteers, was to-day presented to Governor Morton, of that State, in front of the National Hotel. A large crowd of people was in attendance. Governor Morton made a brief speech, in the course of which he congratulated his auditors on the speedy end of the rebellion, and concluded by introducing President Lincoln, whose purity and patriotism, he said, were confessed by all, even amongst the most violent agitators. [Applause.]

His Administration will be recognized as the most important epoch of history. It struck the death-blow to slavery [applause] and built up the Republic with a power it had never before possessed. If he had done nothing more than to put his name to the Emancipation Proclamation, that act alone would have made his name immortal. [Applause.]

The President addressed the assemblage substantially as follows: "FELLOW-CITIZENS.—It will be but a few words that I shall undertake to say. I was born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana, and live in Illinois [laughter] and I am now here, where it is my duty to be, to serve equally for the good people of all the States. I am glad to see an Indiana regiment on this day, able to present this captured flag to the Governor of the State of Indiana. [Applause.] I am not disposed, in saying this, to make distinction between States for all have done equally well. [Applause.]

There are but few views or aspects of this great war upon which I have not said or written something, whereby my own views might be made known. There is one—the recent attempt of our erring brethren, as they are sometimes called, [laughter], to employ the negro as a fight for them. I have neither written nor made a speech upon that subject, because that was their business and not mine; and if they had a wish upon the subject, I had not the power to introduce it or make it effective. The great question with them was, whether the negro, being put into the army, would fight for them? I do not know, and therefore cannot decide. [Laughter.] They ought to know better than we, and do know. I have, in my lifetime, heard many arguments why the negro ought to be a slave, but if they fight for those who would keep them in slavery, it will be a better argument than any I have yet heard. [Laughter and applause.] He who will fight for that ought to be a slave. [Applause.]

They have concluded at last to take one out of four of the slaves and put him in the army, and that one out of four who will fight to keep the others in slavery ought to be a slave himself, unless he is killed in a fight. [Applause.]

While I have often said that all men ought to be free, yet I would allow those colored persons to be slaves who want to be, and next to them, those white men who argue in favor of making other people slaves. [Applause.]

I am in favor of giving an opportunity to such white men to try it on for themselves. [Applause.] I will say one thing with regard to the negro being employed to fight for them that I do know. I know that he cannot fight and stay at home and make bread too. [Laughter and applause] and as one is about as important as the other to me, I don't care which they do. [Renewed applause.] I am rather in favor of having them try them as soldiers. [Applause.] They lack one vote of doing that, and I wish I could send my vote over the wires, so that I might cast it in favor of allowing the negro to fight. [Applause.] But they cannot fight and work both. We must now see the end of the enemy's resources.

"They will stand out as long as they can, and, if the negro will fight for them, they must allow him to fight. They have drawn upon their last branch of resources. [Applause]—and we can now see the end so near at hand. [Applause.]

"I have said now more than I intended to, and will, therefore, bid you good-by." The President then retired, while the crowd below saluted him with loud and hearty cheers, the band at the same time playing a lively tune.

Governor Morton then stepped forward and remarked that he had now seen the rebel flag, and he proposed that each man in favor of the perpetuity of this Union should take off his hat and give three cheers for the Union flag. The request was responded to with a hearty good will. Three cheering cheers were then given for President Lincoln, and three more for Governor Morton, after which the band struck up "Yankee Doodle."

Evils that Threaten Our Destruction.

[From the Springfield Republican.]

The increase of intemperance in the last four years has been most rapid and alarming. We are fast becoming a nation of drunkards. The fact that this and all kindred social vices inevitably attend a state of war should not make us indifferent to the evil or make us indifferent to the remedy. Drunkenness prevails to a fearful extent in the army—among the officers much more than the rank and file; and if the disasters and losses occasioned by this one thing during the war could be picked out and set by themselves, the array would be most startling. The increase of drunkenness in Congress has of late been very painfully evident, and the license of the camp and the capital have come up like a wave of desolation sweeping over the whole land. The generation just coming to the age of manhood are exposed to fearful temptations on every side, and the current sets so strongly downward that all efforts to arrest it seem nearly hopeless.

It is time to make a stand against the evils that threaten our destruction. Let us throw up entrenchments and dig in, what ground is still left to us, or we shall soon be hopelessly in "the last ditch." Social corruption will do us more injury than the war. If there is any vital force in our morality, any saving power in our religion, any real efficiency in our Christian and reformatory institutions, now is the time to make it manifest. Unless we can stay the progress of drunkenness, licentiousness, gambling, and general social debauchery that is setting in upon us, the war will give us a Union saved by the destruction of its people. It will be a thousand times more costly in loss of morals than of men and money.

The Ohio Farmer says it is informed that certain parties in Michigan, are procuring sheep and coloring them with a composition of lampblack, tallow and gum arabic, and perhaps with other materials, and driving them into Ohio, and sell them at almost fabulous prices—and that a large sum has already been realized by this outrageous swindle.

A daughter of John C. Breckenridge, who has been attending school at Louisville, Ky., is to be sent through the rebel lines to her father.

GEN. SHERMAN is a very profound and able man. His great march has been the march of intellect.

THE GOLD MARKET.

What Causes the so-called Rise or Fall of Gold.

A gold speculator has brought an action against his brokers in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. In the course of the trial, Mr. McCulloch, the present Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Spinner, the United States Treasurer, were examined as witnesses.

In answer to the interrogatories of counsel, Mr. Spinner stated the popular terms, "the rise and fall of gold," signifying "a depreciation or rise of the currency as compared with the standard." He added that "no country can carry on a war successfully, whose finances are in a bad condition, the best mode of attack on a Government is to depreciate its currency."

The currency of the country is something else (than gold,) made by statute. Gold has ceased to be used as money in the ordinary commercial transactions of the country. Gold at present "is not required at all, but for three purposes: first, for the payment of the government of the interest on its bonds; and, thirdly, for the balancing of the exchange of the country the differences of our external trade."

The following is also very important: "I suppose the demand by the government for paper currency is calculated to depreciate the paper currency also."

A. It never existed. The government has always got its gold legitimately, from the laws of the country, by collections, customs, &c., and I may say, further, that I know that the government has sold gold with a view of bringing it down.

Q. But what I want to know is, whether the government, by collecting its customs in gold, does not necessarily create a demand for gold on the part of the importing merchants?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, sir, in that ratio the government, by requiring the payment of duties in gold, depreciates its own currency?

A. It does, undoubtedly.

Mr. Spinner attributed the violent fluctuations in the value of gold to the factitious demand that was created for it. This led to the following:

Mr. Brent—Do you consider it a factitious demand for a party who wants to buy gold when it is down, and sell it when it is up, so as to increase his paper capital? It is really, however, the fortune of the individual in that way.

A. The misfortune is that there are no transactions but what are absolutely returns to what gold will be at a certain time, or on a certain day. I know enough of brokers' transactions to know that—that the actual gold does not pass.

Q. If I can buy gold (not for the purpose of making any payment or exchange) to-day at 150, and can sell it next week for 200 in paper legal currency, is not that a real transaction?

A. I think it is.

Q. A pretty solid transaction?

A. Certainly.

Mr. Bradley—I will ask you as a matter of history, so far as it can be traced in Europe and in this country, whether or not gold and silver have become articles of merchandise so soon as the currency of the country is by any means depreciated?

A. I think so.

Mr. McCulloch also testified that, in his opinion, the popular terms, "the rise and fall of gold," signify "merely the depreciation of the value of the currency of the country, gold being the standard." He further testified:

A small amount of gold may be made to do a very large amount of business, so that it is impossible to say how much gold is required for certain transactions. If the government should pay out one day the gold that it received yesterday, the demand would not be very great; but if, on the other hand, the government was in a condition to retain the gold in its sub-treasury, and did retain it, a very much larger amount of gold would be required for those transactions. Everybody knows that the amount required depends upon the manner in which it is used. When the market is active, a very small amount of money will do a very large amount of business.

Mr. Bradley—I would ask whether the government does not send direct from California to Europe funds to meet its own credit there which would enter into the calculations.

A. I am not aware of what the government has been doing in that particular. I think there has been some small shipments of coin from California, but I do not know for what purpose.

Q. There is no doubt about one thing: I understand, Mr. McCulloch, that every increase of the demand, whether it be an increase owing to a real operation, or a fictitious operation, tends to depreciate the public currency?

A. I have no doubt about that fact. It is the universal law of trade.

Q. Will you state, if you please, the main cause that has operated to produce this so-called effect upon gold within the last three or four years?

A. There have been various influences operating upon what is called the gold market. The necessity which the government has been under of issuing a large amount of paper money has undoubtedly had an effect in that direction; and the uncertainty that has existed in the minds of many persons in regard to the ability of the government to suppress the rebellion, has unquestionably had an influence in that direction; and then everybody understands there is a great influence over the country in favor of a depreciated currency. The use that has been made by persons who are not in actual sympathy with the government, of our reverses in the field, has had a very decided effect upon the gold market. The effort that has been made to distrust the ability of the government to maintain its integrity, and consequently to maintain the payment of its obligations, is also a cause. In fact, various causes have been conspired.

Q. Would not the natural effect of a reverse or victory be either to put up or put down gold?

A. Unquestionably.

There have been more than fifty serious railway accidents in the country since the year opened. In the last week of February there were ten, since the first of January more than sixty people have been killed, and nearly five hundred wounded. In times of peace this would arouse popular indignation.

It is said that the President, in reply to the question of a high army officer, why was Butler removed, answered: "Why should I keep a butler who could not open my door?"

A sad sight was seen at Annapolis on Sunday. No less than fifty-four recently exchanged Union soldiers were carried from the hospitals to their graves at one time.

A daughter of John C. Breckenridge, who has been attending school at Louisville, Ky., is to be sent through the rebel lines to her father.

GEN. SHERMAN is a very profound and able man. His great march has been the march of intellect.

Mr. Goodrich experimented in seedling potatoes from the ball fifteen years, and from 15,000 varieties produced only four that were of any account. These are the Great Gem, which is the best of the New York; the Cucuz White, also a fine variety, yielding 450 bushels; the Pink-eyed Rusty coat, which never rots and is truly valuable; and the Copper mine, of good quality and very productive. The Chili is the earliest, and the most valuable on that account.

THE PEACH PROSPECT IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.—Gentlemen who have examined the peach buds in the Southern part of this State, inform us that there is every evidence of a very large peach crop the present season. We are glad to learn this, because it will enable the growers to reap a rich reward for their labors and afford the people plenty of the good fruit to eat.—The Quin Recorder.

New York papers say the suicide mania is on the increase.

CIRCULAR NO. 6.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11th, 1865.

In conformity with the Proclamation of the President heretofore published, all officers and employees of this Bureau are instructed to give prompt attention to the receiving and forwarding of such deserters as present themselves in accordance with its provisions.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: A PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas the twenty-first section of the act of Congress approved on the third instant, entitled 'An act to amend the several laws relating to deserters from the military or naval service, and to provide for the enrolling and calling out the national force, and for other purposes,' requires 'that in addition to the other lawful penalties for desertion from the military or naval service, all persons who have deserted the military or naval service of the United States who shall not return to said service, or report themselves to a Provost Marshal within sixty days after the proclamation hereinafter mentioned, shall be deemed to have voluntarily and unlawfully transferred their rights of citizenship and their rights to become citizens, and such deserters shall be forever incapable of holding any office or position under the United States, or of exercising any rights of citizenship; and all persons who shall hereafter desert the military or naval service, and go beyond the limits of the United States, with intent to avoid any draft into the military or naval service, shall be deemed to have forfeited their rights of citizenship and their rights to become citizens, and such deserters shall be forever incapable of holding any office or position under the United States, or of exercising any rights of citizenship; 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